

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF BLIND WEEVIL  
FROM FLORIDA

(Coleoptera: Cossoninae)

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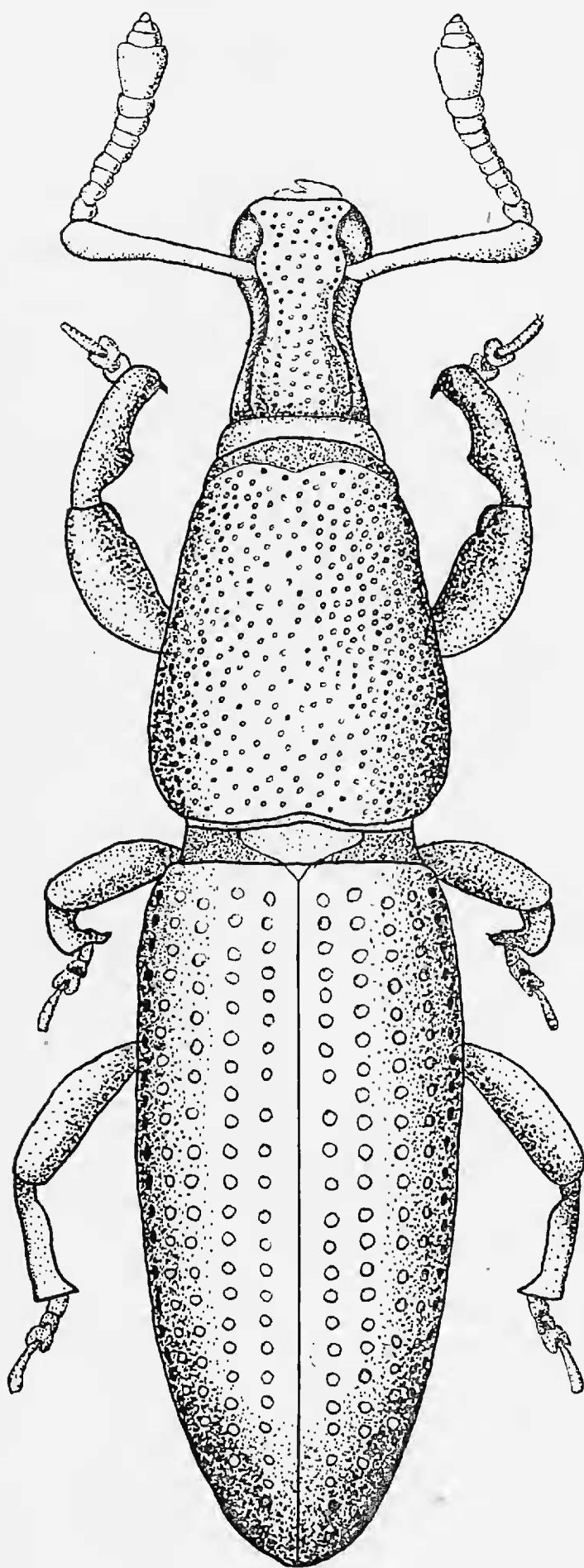
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In the course of a recent study of the possible phylogenetic relationships of the subfamily Raymondionyminae, the author also accumulated specimens of blind weevils in other subfamilies. Among these was a series of seven specimens from Florida, obtained from Dr. Milton B. Sanderson, Illinois Natural History Survey, which apparently represents the first blind species to be recognized in the Cossonini. Since it also appears to represent a new genus, descriptions are offered at this time.

**Caecossonus** Gilbert, new genus.

Body narrowly elongate, moderately compressed dorso-ventrally, levi-punctate, ferruguno-testaceous, moderately convex and shining above. Head short, globular, smooth and shining; eyes absent. Beak arcuate, two times length of head, separated from head by a transverse notch; viewed dorsally, constricted at middle, widest subapically, apex truncate; viewed laterally equal in thickness throughout; viewed ventrally, with a deep elongate median concavity at middle of beak; scrobes lateral throughout, deepest at insertion, becoming shallower basally, ending as a slight concavity before basal constriction. Antennae inserted at apical third, scape elongate-clavate, almost attaining apex of prothorax, funicle clavate, eight segmented, first segment longer than wide, equal to second and third combined, second to eighth segments wider than long; club obovate, first segment glabrous and shining, greater than one half club length, second and third segments densely pubescent. Prothorax ovate, longer than wide, apically arcuate, basally sinuate, widest sub-basally. Scutellum triangulate, glabrous. Elytra subconnate, basally subtruncate, sides parallel before middle, then narrowly arcuate to apex; conjointly rounded at apex; elytral length more than two times their combined width; humeral angles not prominent.

Prosternum long, as long as meso- and metasternum combined, feebly flattened medianly; mesasternum short, one half length of metasternum; both meso- and metasternum feebly convex. Abdomen with first and second segments long, subequal, separated by a fine suture; fourth abdominal segment shorter than third; fifth segment subequal to third and fourth combined, narrowly rounded at apex. Legs short, slender; fore coxae barely, mid coxae fully separated by one half their own width, hind coxae separated by their own width. Femora strongly clavate. Tibiae slender, fore tibiae apically arcuate, with a ventral obtuse tooth at middle, and with a robust apical recurved spur; mid and hind tibiae subparallel, with smaller recurved spurs. Tarsi small, first and second segments subequal; third tarsal segment one fourth longer, wider than long; fourth tarsal segment



*Caecossnus dentipes* Gilbert, new species; dorsal view (X 65)

longer than third. Tarsal segments dorsally glabrous, the apical ventral surfaces with long white pubescence; claws minute, simple and free.

This genus is most closely related to *Cossonus*, and like it has the body compressed, subglabrous, the antennae inserted near the apex of the beak, the fore coxae separated by more than one-half their own width, the beak apically dilated, and more than two times the length of the head. However, *Caecossonus* differs by having the scrobes completely lateral, instead of directed ventrally, the antennae eight instead of seven segmented, the eyes absent, and the fore tibiae strongly dentate.

#### *Caecossonus dentipes* Gilbert, new species.

Body sparsely, but not uniformly, covered with minute pale yellow setae, that are arranged in a single series on the elytral intervals. Head translucent. Beak shining, sparsely and minutely punctate throughout; dorsal surface fringed apically with a row of moderately robust white setae, and with fine white setae before basal constriction, otherwise denuded; color light ferrugino-testaceous, dorsal lateral and apical borders darker, with a pair of dark dorsal semicircular lines above antennal insertion, and a median ventral stripe from the ventral concavity to the basal constriction. Antennal scape, funicle dark amber, antennal club lighter. Prothorax moderately shining, opaque, light ferrugino-testaceous, with a dark apical margin which is laterally and ventrally bordered by a series of large dark subcontiguous punctures, dorsally the marginal dark area broadly arcuate, widest medianly. Pronotum broadly convex, wider subapically than the combined elytra, minutely and uniformly punctured, with minute setae originating from the center of each puncture. Elytra translucent, light ferrugino-testaceous with darker, more opaque punctures, that are shallow, but conspicuously larger than those of pronotum, and arranged in a single series, each puncture minutely medianly setate.

Sternum dull, apically fimbriate, sparsely punctate, the punctures subequal to those on elytra; color light ferrugino-testaceous, coxal areas darker, the fore coxal area with a triangular stripe extending dorsolaterally to pronotum, widest near coxae. Femora basally darker, shining, translucent, minutely punctate, hind femora more extensively so; apically lighter, dull, opaque, heavily punctate. Tibiae subtranslucent; fore tibiae posteriorly fimbriate from tooth to apex, apically armed with a single spur; mid and hind tibiae sparsely and uniformly setate, with a small apical lateral tooth in addition to apical spur. Abdomen dull, opaque, sparsely and minutely punctate. Length 2 mm. (excluding beak), width .6 mm.

Holotype male and allotype female (Illinois Natural History Survey, Entomology) and three female and two male paratypes. All seven specimens were taken by Drs. O. W. Richards and L. J. Stannard from ground litter in a HAMMOCK ON STOCK ISLAND, FLORIDA, December 29, 1951.